

A network of people caring for children.

And their families.

What is palliative care?

Families caring for children with life-limiting illnesses face difficult and sometimes lonely challenges. The goal of the Pediatric Palliative Care Network is to improve the quality of life of the entire family through its support and services.

The Pediatric Palliative Care Network serves the unmet physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of children in Massachusetts with life-limiting illnesses. Our services are provided at no cost to children 18 years old or younger who have a life-limiting illness.

Ten licensed hospices throughout the state — all skilled in pediatric palliative care — are part of the network.



The Pediatric Palliative Care Network

For more information:

1-800-882-1435

TTY (617) 624-5992

Interpreter services available

www.mass.gov/ppcn
pediatric.palliative.care@state.ma.us

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The Pediatric Palliative Care Network

Serving children with
life-limiting illnesses
and their families



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The Pediatric Palliative Care Network

A network of supportive services helping Massachusetts children with life-limiting illnesses and their families.



Comfort and care for children with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

The Pediatric Palliative Care Network helps children with life-limiting illnesses and their families gain a sense of control in their lives. We also help children and their caregivers manage the pain and other symptoms brought on by illness. Our services strengthen the family by lessening the trouble and worry that family members often feel during this time in the child's life.

What services are provided?

Palliative care services include but are not limited to: pain and symptom management; assessment and case management; spiritual care; social services and counseling for the patient and other family members such as siblings who are well; volunteer support; respite care; emergency services; and bereavement care for family members in the event of death.

Who is part of the care network?

The Pediatric Palliative Care Network is made up of ten licensed hospices throughout Massachusetts. Palliative Care is provided by hospice professionals experienced in enhancing quality of life and managing pain. Everyone in the Pediatric Palliative Care Network plays an important role, including the child, family, physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors and volunteers. The Network is funded and supported by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

How can my child be referred to the network?

Referrals to contracted palliative care hospices in the network may be made by the doctor or nurse and/or other health care professionals. Referrals may also be made by public health programs and family caregivers. Parents and families may also call the community support line at 1-800-882-1435 for more information.

Is my child eligible?

In order for a child to receive palliative care, a doctor must diagnose that the child has a life-limiting illness. A child must be 18 years old or younger and must live in Massachusetts in order to take part in the network. A physician must state that the child has been diagnosed with an illness that could limit normal life expectancy such as advanced or progressive cancer, major organ failures, HIV, cystic fibrosis, progressive genetic, neurological or metabolic disorders, renal failure or severe cerebral palsy.

Unlike hospice care, the doctor does not need to state that the child will live six months or less. In fact, many children with life-limiting illnesses live a long time.

How much will care cost?

The services of the Pediatric Palliative Care Network are provided at no cost to eligible children and their families if these services are not already covered by the child's health care plan.

Will our regular doctor be involved in my child's care?

Yes. Your regular doctor and other members of your health care team will still care for your child. A child may still receive treatment toward a cure since new cures may be discovered during his or her lifetime.

How do I learn more?

To learn more about The Pediatric Palliative Care Network, you may contact any of the following:

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Community Support Line at 1-800-882-1435. Interpreter services are available.
- Any of the participating hospices of the Pediatric Palliative Care Network listed on the insert card that accompanies this brochure.
- The Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts at 781-255-7077.

1-800-882-1435

Palliative care serves the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of the children with life-limiting illnesses and their families.